

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 644 by Representative Talbot

PARISH/JEFFERSON: Provides relative to enforcement of local building and property ordinances by adding to tax rolls

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds a severability clause.
2. Adds a special effective date (signature of governor).
3. Provides that notwithstanding any law to the contrary, Jefferson Parish may compensate the judge of Division "J", who oversees the "environmental docket" for the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law authorizes Jefferson Parish and the municipalities therein to add to an owner's ad valorem tax bill contempt fines, other fines, and court costs for failure to comply with a final order or judgment directing him to repair or demolish a derelict building.

Proposed law further authorizes the addition to an owner's ad valorem tax bill of contempt fines, other fines, and court costs upon failure to remedy a zoning, property maintenance, or other ordinance violation after being so ordered by a judgment or administrative adjudication hearing.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authorities of Jefferson Parish and the municipalities therein to adopt ordinances to govern the placement of such contempt fines and costs on the owner's tax bill.

Proposed law provides that the fines and costs added to the tax bill shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes on the property in question.

Proposed law provides that the fines and costs added to the tax bill shall be enforced with the same authority and be subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

Proposed law provides that the sheriff or appropriate tax collecting entity will be entitled to a collection fee equal to 15% of the amount of the collected fines and costs. The collection fee shall be in addition to the other fines and costs on the tax bill.

Proposed law provides that the parish shall be the sole and proper defendant in actions to contest the addition of such charges to the ad valorem tax bill. Proposed law further provides that the municipality shall be the sole and proper defendant in any action to contest the addition of such contempt fines and court costs to the ad valorem tax bills of the municipality.

Proposed law provides that in Jefferson Parish and the municipalities therein, all final orders and judgments shall remain enforceable and executory, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, specifically, the state law relative to nullity of unfiled claims once the property in question has been seized by the sheriff.

Proposed law provides that, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the parish of Jefferson may compensate the judge for Division "J" of the 24th Judicial District Court (Jefferson Parish), who handles the District Court's "environmental docket".

Proposed law provides for severability if a provision of the Act is held invalid.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:1236(49)(f))